

Application No. 10/049,415
Response dated: February 15, 2006
In Reply to Restriction Requirement dated: December 15, 2005

REMARKS

In an Office Action dated December 15, 2005, the Examiner holds that the application contains more than one invention which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. Applicants are required to elect a single invention to which the claims shall be restricted.

Claims 11-10 and 14 are currently pending.

Particularly, the Examiner identifies :

Group I as including Claims 1-5, 10 and 14 drawn to a signal processing unit;

Group II as including Claims 6-8 drawn to a direction rendering unit; and

Group III as including Claim 9 drawn to an early pattern generation mixer.

No generic claim is identified by the Examiner.

The Examiner contends that these enumerated groups do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, the groups lack the same or corresponding special technical feature because Group I includes a signal processing unit including either early pattern generator (claim 1) or reverberation units (claim 14) or space processors (claim 10); Group II includes a direction rendering unit; and Group III include an early pattern generation mixer, wherein Group I may be used in various signal processing systems and Groups II and III are specifically for rendering direction and early pattern generating mixing.

In reply to the restriction requirement, Applicants herein elect Group I, as including Claims 1-5 and 10-14, without traverse. Notwithstanding the present election, Applicants reserve the right to pursue the cancelled claims in a related application(s) without prejudice with respect to the present amendment or otherwise.

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Conclusion

The foregoing is believed to be fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action.
No new matter is added by way of the present Amendment and Remarks as support
is found throughout the originally filed specification, claims and drawings.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's attorney at the below-listed phone
number regarding this Response or otherwise concerning the present application.

Applicant hereby petitions for any necessary extension of time required under 37
C.F.R. §§1.136(a) or 1.136(b) which may be required for entry and consideration of the
present Reply.

If there are any charges due with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please
charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130 maintained by Applicant's attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,
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